

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00806 240812Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/095 W

-----012944 242142Z /15

R 240629Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6627
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SU
SUBJ: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY TELEVISION SPEECH TO NATION

1. NIMEIRI GAVE TYPICAL "FACE-UP THE NATION" SPEECH
FEBRUARY 20 ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, COMMENTING ON MAIL
RECEIVED IN PAST MONTH CONCERNING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO
PUBLIC. MOST OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO GOOD NEWS ABOUT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF DUTY-
FREE TRADE ZONE AT PORT SUDAN TO BE FINANCED WITH
SAUDI ARABIAN HELP. NIMEIRI BEGAN DISCUSSION OF COMPLAINTS
ABOUT SLOW PACE OF DEVELOPMENT AND UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION
OF RESOURCES BY QUOTING EXTENSIVELY FROM SARCASTIC AND
BITTERLY CRITICAL LETTER SUPPOSEDLY FROM SUDANESE CITIZEN
WHO HAS RESIDED ABROAD SINCE "CATASTROPHE KNOWN AS MAY
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REVOLUTION." NIMEIRI'S RESPONSE WAS IN SELF-DEPRECATING
GOOD HUMOR. HE THEN READ LETTER FROM LOCAL DOCTOR
COMPLAINING ABOUT "BRAIN DRAIN" AND SUGGESTING HEAVY
TAXES FOR SUDANESE LIVING ABROAD.
2. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NIMEIRI SURVEYED WITH SATISFACTION
LIBYAN AND CHADIAN EVENTS. HE SAID ETHIOPIA HAS NOT YET
REPLIED TO HIS LETTER WHICH CONTAINS PLAN TO END

ETHIOPIAN-SOMALIAN CONFLICT BUT HE WILL KEEP TRYING. NIMEIRI POINTED OUT THAT USSR IS NOW ENEMY OF SAME LAND AND SAME PEOPLE THAT LAST YEAR SOVIETS WERE BEFRIENDING AS "OPPRESSED." HE SAID "SOMALIA AID CHANGED INTO SOMALIA ATTACK AND SOMALIA DEFENSE CHANGED INTO DIRECT AGGRESSION AGAINST SOMALIA. PROMISES FOR DEVELOPMENT CHANGED INTO GUNS AND BOMBS, EXPERTS AND ADVISORS AND EVEN INTO FIGHTERS AMONG RANKS OF SOVIET ALLIES AND SATELLITES." WHAT HAPPENED IN SOMALIA WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN "IN SAME AFRICAN COUNTRY IN WHICH SOVIET UNION IS NOW MOVING." HE CONCLUDED WITH TYPICAL WARNING TO USSR AND ITS ALLIES TO GET OUT OF AFRICA.

3. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS SELF-ASSURED AND CONFIDENT EXHORTATION TO SUDANESE TO BEAR WITH PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE NIMEIRI'S GOVERNMENT IS IMPROVING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH PROSPERITY IS ON THE WAY. NIMEIRI'S GOOD-NATURED WAY OF QUOTING WITH RELISH INSULTING CRITICISMS OF HIMSELF AND HIS POLICIES IS BASED ON SHREWD APPRAISAL OF SUDANESE PSYCHOLOGY, NOT ON SELF-SOUBT OR WEAKNESS. MOST SUDANESE LIKE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR LEADERS. POMPOSITIVITY AND STUFFINESS OF OTHER AFRICAN DICTATORS WOULD NOT SERVE IN SUDAN. IN FACT, CRITICISMS WHICH NIMEIRI QUOTES ABOUT RISING PRICES, SCARCITIES, LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN OFFICIALS, ETC., ARE POPULAR. BY OFFERING CANDID CONCERN AND REASSURANCES, HE MAKES UP TO SOME EXTENT FOR LACK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROMPT SOLUTIONS. AS FAR AS ONE CAN JUDGE, HIS STYLE IS BECOMING MORE SUCCESSFUL AND GAINING NIMEIRI A DEGREE OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND EVEN AFFECTION NOT APPARENT A YEAR AGO. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO00806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0880
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaoln.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 36d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY TELEVISION SPEECH TO NATION
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/36d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014